

(4) Is it not also an accepted practice of the Government and the heads of these departments to give such subordinates as have served on the hills transfers to the plains on their request or in the usual course when their compulsory period of service is over?

(5) Are not officers of the different departments sometimes transferred from the plains to the hills as a punishment?

(6) Are not inter-divisional transfers allowed to revenue subordinates in the other Revenue Divisions of the State?

(7) Are not the Government aware of the disabilities and difficulties experienced by the revenue subordinates undergoing a period of long, continuous and enforced hill service, in the matter of giving adequate education to their children?

(8) Will the Government be pleased to adopt a uniform rule applicable to all the Revenue Divisions in the matter of transfers of revenue subordinates?

(9) Will the Government be pleased to adopt a uniform rule of hill service applicable to the officers and subordinates of all departments?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(1) Government are not aware.

(2) A list* furnishing the information is laid on the table.

(3) The answer is in the negative.

(4) There is no hard and fast rule on the point. It is discretionary with heads of departments to transfer their subordinates from one place to another. There is no such thing as compulsory service on the hills.

(5) The answer is in the affirmative.

(6) The answer is in the negative.

(7) Government are aware that there are no facilities at present for higher education on the hills.

(8) & (9) Government do not consider it practicable or expedient to adopt any such uniform procedure. The subordinate officers employed on the hills get promotion much sooner than their confreres on the plains and they get hill allowance in addition.

Appointment of a Committee for increasing the Output of Salt.

80. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If there has not been a substantial increase in the output of salt in South Travancore factories, will the Government be pleased to appoint a committee of experts to enquire into the whole matter of manufacture of salt, not only in South Travancore but in Central and North Travancore, so as to make the State self-contained in its supply of salt?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The causes that operate against a large output of salt in the Travancore salt factories are well-known. Government do not therefore see the necessity for the appointment of a committee.

* Vide Appendix III—page 660.